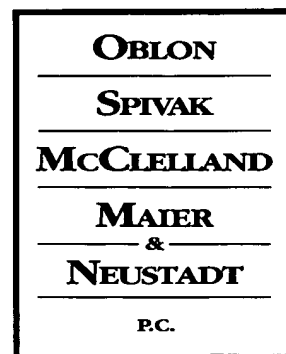




Docket No.: 242882US3CONT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/682,190  
Applicants: Akira MATSUI, et al.  
Filing Date: October 10, 2003  
For: BASE, DRUM, AND DRUM MOUNTING UNIT FOR  
MAGNETIC RECORDING REPRODUCING  
APPARATUS  
Group Art Unit: 2652  
Examiner: WATKO, J. A.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**RESTRICTION RESPONSE**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters

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DOCKET NO: 242882US3CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
AKIRA MATSUI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: WATKO, J. A.  
SERIAL NO: 10/682,190 :  
FILED: OCTOBER 10, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2652  
FOR: BASE, DRUM, AND DRUM :  
MOUNTING UNIT FOR MAGNETIC  
RECORDING REPRODUCING  
APPARATUS

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement in the Official Action mailed July 9, 2004, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 5, 6, 8 and 10 for further examination on the merits in the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
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